

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

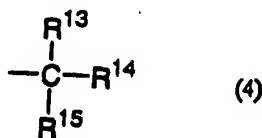
1-7. (Canceled)

8. (previously presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition comprising a) a compound with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* and b) an acid generator which generates acid by irradiation with radiation, wherein the acid labile group *a* has an alkali-soluble group or alternatively the acid labile group *a* has an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *b*.

9. (previously presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 8 wherein the acid labile group *a* with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* has at least one phenolic hydroxyl group, or alternatively a phenolic hydroxyl group further protected with acid labile group *b*.

10. (previously presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 8 wherein the acid labile group *a* in the compound with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* has at least one carboxyl group or alternatively a carboxyl group further protected with acid labile group *b*.

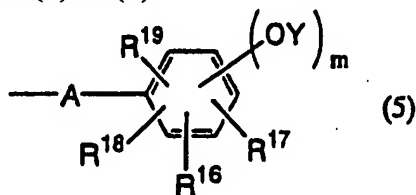
11. (previously presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 8 wherein the labile group *a* in the compound with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* is represented by general formula (4):



(R¹³ to R¹⁵ are each independently an alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a substituted aryl group, a group containing an alkali-soluble group, or a group containing an alkali-soluble group protected by acid labile group *b*, and at least one is a group containing an alkali-soluble group, or a group containing an alkali-soluble group protected by

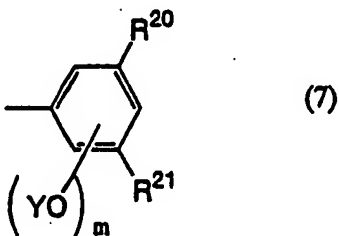
acid labile group *b*, R¹³ to R¹⁵ may be the same or different).

12. (previously presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 11 wherein at least one of R¹³ to R¹⁵ in general formula (4) is a group represented by general formula (5) or (6):



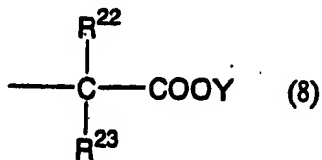
(A represents an alkylene group with 1 to 4 carbons, an arylene group with 6 to 10 carbons or a single bond, B represents an alkylene group with 1 to 6 carbons, an arylene group with 6 to 10 carbons, an alkylenearylene group with 7 to 12 carbons or a single bond, R¹⁶ to R¹⁹ each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbons, Y represents an acid labile group *b* or a hydrogen atom, and m is 1 to 3).

13. (previously presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 11 wherein at least one of R¹³ to R¹⁵ in general formula (4) is a group represented by general formula (7):



(R²⁰ and R²¹ each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbons, Y represents an acid labile group *b* or a hydrogen atom, and m is 1 to 3).

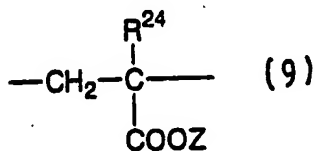
14. (previously presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 11 wherein at least one of R^{13} to R^{15} of general formula (4) is of structure represented by general formula (8):



(R^{22} and R^{23} represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbons, Y represents an acid labile group *b* or a hydrogen atom).

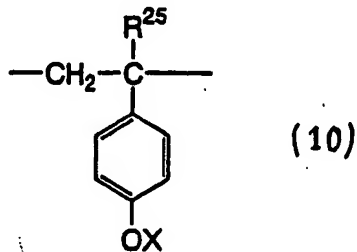
15. (previously presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 8 wherein the compound with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* is a polymer of weight average molecular weight from 5,000 to 50,000.

16. (previously presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 8 wherein the compound with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* is a polymer containing structural units represented by general formula (9):



(R^{24} represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbons, a cyano group or a halogen, Z is a group represented by general formula (1), (2) or (4)).

17. (previously presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 8 wherein the compound with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *a* is a polymer containing structural units represented by general formula (10):



(R^{25} represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbons, a cyano group or a halogen,

X is an acid labile group represented by general formula (2) or (4)).

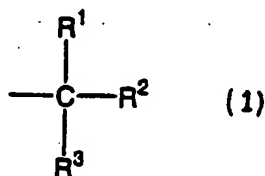
18. (previously presented) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 16 wherein R²⁴ is a cyano group or a halogen.

19-20. (Canceled)

Please add the following new claims 21-23:

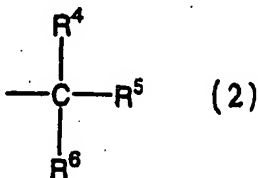
21. (new) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition comprising a positive-working radiation-sensitive composition containing a) a compound with an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group α and b) an acid generator which generates acid by irradiation with radiation, and any of the following conditions a1) to a3) are satisfied:

a1) The alkali-soluble group is a carboxyl group and the acid labile group is represented by general formula (1)



(R¹ and R² are aromatic rings, and R³ represents an alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group or an aromatic ring; and R¹ to R³ may be the same or different)

a2) The acid labile group is represented by general formula (2)

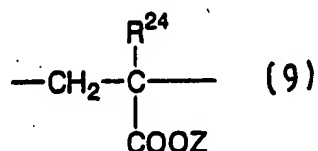


(R⁴ to R⁶ are each an alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group or an aromatic ring, and at least one of R⁴ to R⁶ is an aromatic ring with an electron-donating group; and R⁴ to R⁶ may be the same or different)

a3) The acid labile group α has an alkali-soluble group or alternatively the acid labile group α

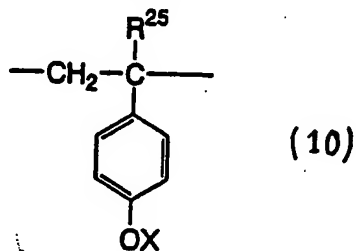
has an alkali-soluble group protected by an acid labile group *b*.

and wherein the compound meeting any of conditions a1) to a3) is a polymer containing structural units represented by general formula (9):



(R²⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbons, a cyano group or a halogen, Z is a group represented by general formula (1), (2) or (4))

22. (new) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to claim 21 wherein condition a2) or a3) is satisfied and wherein the compound meeting condition a2) or a3) is a polymer containing structural units represented by general formula (10):



(R²³ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbons, a cyano group or a halogen, X is an acid labile group represented by general formula (2) or (4).

23. (new) A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition according to Claim 21 wherein R²⁴ is a cyano group or a halogen.